GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2708
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Science Congress, started to stimulate scientific research has been progressively losing its substance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage and revive Science Congress to fulfil its objectives and promote research and development in science and technology ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (c): Holding of annual session of Indian Science Congress was started in 1914 with the main objectives of imparting scientific temper to common man and bringing the attention of the Government and policy-makers to immediate needs of the societal development using science & technology. With the passage of time, the number of participants and number of topics have tremendously increased and thereby making it impossible for any organizer to hold meaningful discussions. However, the recommendations made by each annual session are forwarded to concerned departments of the Government as necessary inputs in their activities. The annual session of the Science Congress are organized by various academic institutions and national laboratories under the guidance of General President and Sectional Presidents.

The Government of India is contemplating to evolve perhaps more effective, alternative mechanism for such a science conclave. The Science Congress and its organizers are free to restructure their Association in a manner best suits their interests.